THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Under notification No. 4/97 dt. 1.3.97, 21 specified bulk drugs as mentioned in list 1 and only 24 specified goods used in their manufacture as mentioned in list 2 attract nil rate of Excise Duty.

(c) and (d) List 2 under notification No. 4/97 dt. 1.3.97 does not include all the goods used in the manufacture of bulk drugs mentioned in list 1 but only such goods in whose case the Govt. has decided to levy Excise Duty at nil rate.

Investigation of FIRs

3588. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases have been reported where investigating officers of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh police (IOs) have finalised/filed FIRs without actually visiting the sites and collection of evidence; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases and action taken against the defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) No such case has been reported in respect of the Delhi Police. Information in regard to the State of Uttar Pradesh is being collected.

[Translation]

Pollution from Tehri Dam

3589. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dust emanating from the digging work by construction companies at Tehri Dam has been adversely affecting the forests, flora, fauna, health of people and animals;

(b) whether the people had lodged complaints in December, 1996 in this regard with Hanumant Rao Expert Committee appointed by the Government on environmental and Rehabilitation aspect;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Power visited project site in December 1996. During the Committee's visit some local persons mentioned problem of dust from vehicles playing on the haul roads at the Tehri dam. Project authorities undertake measures to contain rising of dust by sprinkling water at intervals on the haul roads.

[English]

Sunderbans

3590. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large chunk of the Sunderbans Sanctuary has been converted into residential site;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the sanctuary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agriculture Development Finance Companies

3591. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State level agriculture development finance companies are being set up in the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the setting up of these State level companies was announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget 1996-97;

(c) if so, the names of States where such companies have been set up so far; and

(d) the extent to which the setting up of the State level companies have produced the desired results ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. State level Agricultural Development Finance Companies have been incorporated in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 1996-97 has announced that the State level Agricultural Development Finance Companies would be set-up with NABARD as chief promoter.

(c) and (d) So far, three companies have been incorporated in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh